# Trans-Siberian Orchestra

## CHRISTMAS EVE AND OTHER STORIES

It was Christmas Eve and the Lord looked down from above at all His children. It had been nearly two thousand years since the birth of His son and turning to His youngest angel the Lord said: "Go down to the earth and bring back to me the one thing that best represents everything good that has been done in the name of this day."

The angel bowed to the Lord and spreading his wings, descended from heaven to the world of man, all the while contemplating his mission. So much had been done in the name of honoring the birth of the Christ Child. For this day, wars had temporarily ceased, cathedrals had been built and great novels had been written. With so little time, what could he possibly find to represent all this?

As he soared above the earth, he suddenly heard the sound of church bells below. Their tone was so beautiful that it reminded him of the voice of God.

Looking down, he saw a small church whose bells were ringing out the carol, *Silent Night*. As the final note died away, it was replaced by one lone voice singing inside the church. It was shortly joined by a second voice that embraced the first in perfect harmony, and then another and another until a choir of voices rose through the night.

Enchanted by the magic of what he was hearing, the angel found himself listening until the song was finished. As he resumed his flight through the night, he was delighted to hear these sounds everywhere, from the largest cities to the smallest villages. He heard melodies from massive orchestras and in the voices of single soldiers alone at their post. And any place where he heard these songs, he found hope in the hearts of men.

Grasping a song out of the air, he held it in his hand (angels are able to do this) and thought that maybe, these songs could be the one thing that best represented Christmas. They seemed to give voice to man's greatest joys as well as hope to those deepest in despair.

But, though at first glance it appeared to be the answer he sought, his heart told him that this music alone was not enough. There had to be something more. So, he continued his flight through the night until he suddenly felt the touch of a father's prayer on its way to heaven. Once again looking downward, he saw a man who was praying for his child whom he had not heard from in a long time and who would not be home that Christmas. Seizing upon the prayer, the angel followed it until it reached the lost child.

She was standing on a corner, in a quiet snowfall, looking very small in a very large city. Across from her was an old city bar, the kind that only the lost seemed to know how to find.

The patrons of this establishment rarely looked up from their drinks and so seemed not to notice the young woman.

Now, the bartender in this bar had been working in there longer than anyone could remember. He believed in nothing except his bar and his cash register. He had never married, never took a vacation and as a matter of fact, had never been seen out from behind his counter by most of his patrons. He was there when they arrived and he was still there when they left. He gave no credit and for seventy-five cents, served shots of un-watered whiskey to people who used their drinks like a moat arround their lives. For them, he provided a safe, unchanging world.

Suddenly, the door opened wide and into this world walked a small child. The bartender could not remember the last time that a child had been in this place, but before he could ask the child what he was doing there, the child asked him if he knew that there was a girl outside their door who could not get home. Glancing out the window, he saw the girl standing across the street. Turning back to the child, the bartender asked him how he knew this. The child replied: "That on this night of all nights, if one could be home, they'd be already there."

The bartender looked back toward the young woman as he reflected on what the child had said. After several seconds of thought, he slowly went over to the cash register and removing most of the money, came out from behind the bar and followed the child across the street.

Everyone in the bar watched as he spoke with the girl. After a few moments, he called over a cab, put the girl inside and told the driver: "J.F.K. Airport." As the cab pulled away, he looked around for the child, but the child was gone. And what was stranger still, even though his own tracks leading from the bar were still clearly marked in the snow, the child's were nowhere to be found.

Returning back inside, he asked if anyone had seen where the child had gone, but like himself, no one had, for they also had been watching the departing cab. And then, some would later say that the most miraculous thing of all happened, when for the rest of the night, no one paid for a drink.

Later that night, the angel returned back to heaven and placed in the Lord's hand, the wish of a soul for the happiness of another. And as the heavenly host looked on, the Lord smiled.

*-- Merry Christmas!*

# CHRISTMAS EVE

*In an old city bar*
*That is never too far*
*From the places that gather*
*The dreams that have been*

*In the safety of night*
*With its old neon light*
*It beckons to strangers*
*And they always come in*

*And the snow it was falling*
*The neon was calling*
*The music was low*
*And the night*
*Christmas Eve*

*And here was the danger*
*That even with strangers*
*Inside of this night*
*It was easier to believe*

*For it was into th is bar*
*That I happened to wander*
*To stare into a glass*
*And my universe ponder*

*So I walked up to the counter*
*Shook the snow off my coat*
*Then I ordered a whiskey*
*That I used like a moat*

*But an old man soon joined me*
*And asked if I knew the time*
*One word led to another*
*And somehow I didn't mind*

*Then he offered a drink*
*From a bottle 'neath his coat*
*And he smiled a little smile*
*As it trickled down my throat*

*And I felt myself relaxing*
*Here among the ghosts that failed*
*Then the old man topped my glass off*
*And began this little tale*

*In the moments of our lives*
*Both the joyous and the tragic*
*If the truth is to be told*
*We are all pursuing magic*

*And the magic that we seek*
*As we're sure you have discovered*
*Can be found in certain places*
*Far more easily than others*

*In the sand beneath the Sphinx*
*In the dreams of candlelight*
*But the surest place of all*
*Is in the forgiving world of night*

*And of all the nights throughout the year*
*That come and gently leave*
*None hold the dream of magic*
*Like the evening, Christmas Eve*

*And so it's on this night*
*With its promise deep within*
*As the snow now starts to fall*
*Our story does begin*

## AN ANGEL CAME DOWN

An angel came down
One night to the earth
A mission from God
To find out the worth

Of everything that
His children had done
Since that winter night
The birth of His son

And then a sound filled the night
In the cold winter air
And in the midst of his flight
It was holding him there

And as he looked towards the earth
For the source of this sound
On that cold winter night
It was pulling him down

To bring something back
This angel was told
That no one could touch
But angels could hold

So on that night
When the sky had cleared
Among all the stars
An angel appeared

And then a sound filled the night
In the cold winter air
And in the midst of his flight
It was holding him there

And as he looked towards the earth
For the source of this sound
On that cold winter night
It was pulling him down

## O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL/ O HOLY NIGHT (Instrumental)

*The sound that he had heard*
*Was the ringing of the bells*
*But now inside that night*
*There were voices there as well*

## A STAR TO FOLLOW

God rest ye merry gentlemen
God rest ye merry gentlemen

There up in the sky a star to follow
There up in the sky a star to follow

All
Await the coming of the Lord
Await the coming of the Lord
Await the coming of the ...

Christmas
Lead and we'll follow
Hope and tomorrow
Magic and dreams

You are all this and more now
Childhood recalls how
You are
Visions and ...

Christmas
We are your children
You take us back when
Ever we call
Each year we are here waiting
Anticipating
As the snow starts to fall

Merry Christmas
Merry, merry Christmas
Merry Christmas
Merry, merry Christmases

Ornaments and evergreens
With packages as yet unseen
All wrapped in paper
Colored bright
Reflecting candles in the night

With carolers and mistletoe
And stockings all hung in a row
On fireplaces glowing red
With children safely sent to bed

Ring the bells, ring the bells
Let the churches ring the bells!

Joy to the world, the Lord has come
Let His light shine on everyone

Christmas lead and we'll follow

*From London, Rome and Paris*
*To Berlin and Tokyo*
*Winter never really starts*
*Until it's given its first snow*

**FIRST SNOW** (Instrumental)

*As he flew over the Urals*
*He came upon a little town*
*Shining in the Arctic darkness*
*So the angel he set down*

*Then he walked among the people*
*In a fitting earth disguise*
*So no one recognized him*
*Though they wondered at his eyes*

**THE SILENT NUTCRACKER**
(Instrumental)

*Then he asked a village peasant*
*What do Russian hearts desire*
*He answered peace on earth, of course*
*And a little "Stolichnaya"*

**A MAD RUSSIAN'S CHRISTMAS**
(Instrumental)

**THE PRINCE OF PEACE**

In the middle of a forest
There's a clearing by a stream
Where a mother holds her newborn
And the child begins to dream

And he dreams of hopes unspoken
When the tears of man will cease
And his mother holds him closer
For he is the Prince of Peace

And the moon is looking downward
Casting shadows through the trees
And the stars are shining brighter
As they whisper what they see

How the emperor and the pauper
With the lion and the lamb
Kneel down before the infant
For his peace they understand

Hark, the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Glory all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies

With the heavenly host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark, the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Let the bells ring out these tidings
Let it echo across the land
That a king is born in Bethlehem
And his kingdom is at hand

Let the world rejoice together
As it looks upon the stars
Knowing every man's our brother
And that every child is ours

*As he flew o'er Sarajevo*
*There were scars upon the land*
*There were scars upon the people*
*It was hard to understand*
*And the deepest scars of all*
*Which to humans are unseen*
*But the angel could see clearly*
*Were the scars upon the dreams*

*Like Belfast and Burundi*
*Rwanda, Palestine*
*The only decorations here*
*Had been awarded for their crimes*

*And in gardens where the children played*
*Now soldiers only trod*
*And stranger still, he heard some say*
*That they were killing for their God*

*Now the angel heard God speak many times*
*And he had always paid attention*
*But this killing of one's neighbor*
*Was something the Lord had never mentioned*

*But as he neared the earth*
*Of a recent battleground*
*From among the ruins*
*He once more heard the sound*

*It was a single cello playing*
*A forgotten Christmas song*
*And even on that battlefield*
*The song somehow belonged*

*And as he flew away*
*The angel did take note*
*That where he found this music played*
*One always could find hope*

**CHRISTMAS EVE/SARAJEVO 12/24**
(Instrumental)

*As he flew over the countryside*
*He was still listening*
*When from a little church below*
*He heard a voice begin to sing*

## GOOD KING JOY

Joy to the world
The Lord has come
Let earth
Receive her King

Now it was long ago
When it all began
Back in Bethlehem
In the promised land

When a single star
Appeared in the sky
And three kings saw
And they each asked why

Then they checked the books
Full of prophecy
And the one king said,
'Why it's plain to me'

You see it means
That a king is born
Who will save mankind
On this blessed morn

So they packed some gold
Myrrh and frankincense
On some old camels
With some fancy tents
Closed down the house
Set the servants free
And three kings rode
Into history

It was long ago
In a foreign land
When the Lord looked down
Said to make a stand
So He sent His son
And said, 'through Him you'll know me!'

Then the angels came
And when they start to sing
All at once the past

It doesn't mean a thing
Then the star comes out
And the wise men say, 'hey, show me!'

And they followed it
Over hills and sand
'Til they found the child
Like it all was planned
And as they knelt before
The newborn King

The angels were singing
In their angel style
How all of our hopes
Had come down to this Child

*Then he reached for the song*
*And held it in his hand*
*(It was something that he did*
*because angels can)*

*And he wondered to himself,*
*'Is this the answer that I sought?'*
*But something was still missing*
*Or at least so he still thought*

*And so he journeyed on*
*Through the midnight winter air*
*When all at once our angel*
*Felt the touch of a man's prayer*

*And looking once more to the earth*
*To determine whence it came*
*He felt a million souls below*
*But one was not the same*

*For there he saw a man alone*
*Though he was walking in a crowd*
*And though this man had rarely prayed*
*Tonight his head was bowed*

*For even in a crowd, you see*
*A heart can feel alone*
*When the night is Christmas Eve*
*A child is not at home*

*So from a father to the Lord*
*A prayer did swiftly race*
*But the angel saw it first*
*And he listened to its case*

**ORNAMENT**

There is an ornament
Lost inside the night
There on a Christmas tree
With a thousand lights
No one can see her
She's standing all alone

Somewhere she glistens where no one can see

I don't believe I can say what had happened
All of those words that we put into play
No longer matter, I should have known that then
I just know you're far away

On this Christmas Day
On this Christmas Day
On this Christmas ...

Somewhere the wind
Carves moments in the snow

And if he sees her
He never lets it show
He just drifts behind her
Erasing every step

Tinsel and garland are whispered
through trees

I don't believe I can say what
had happened
All of those words that we put
into play
No longer matter, I should have
known that then
I just know you're far away

On this Christmas Day
On this Christmas Day
On this Christmas ...

Come, Christmas
Stay, Christmas
Watch over her this day
Keep her
Protect her
From harm now in every way

Shelter her
Gently
There in your arms she'll be
Until the day
When you
Bring her back home to me

There is an ornament lost inside the night

*After he had heard the prayer*
*The angel gently set it free*
*And followed it to the father's child*
*In a faraway city*

*And there the girl in desperation*
*Was searching through the sky*
*For a star that she could wish upon*
*But stars were in short supply*

*And the only light that she could see*
*There shining all alone*
*Was a neon sign on an old bar*
*And so on this,*
*she wished she was home*

**THE FIRST NOEL**
(Instrumental)

*Every light can be a star*
*Just depends on where you are*
*And the distance that you're looking*
*Past the places you have been*

**OLD CITY BAR**

In an old city bar
That is never too far
From the places that gather
The dreams that have been

In the safety of night
With its old neon light
It beckons to strangers
And they always come in

And the snow it was falling
The neon was calling
The music was low
And the night
Christmas Eve

And here was the danger
That even with strangers
Inside of this night
It's easier to believe

Then the door opened wide
And a child came inside
That no one in the bar
Had seen there before

And he asked did we know
That outside in the snow
That someone was lost
Standing outside our door

Then the bartender gazed
Through the smoke and the haze

Through the window and ice
To a corner street light

Where standing alone
By a broken pay phone
Was a girl the child said
Could no longer get home

And the snow it was falling
The neon was calling
The bartender turned
And said, not that I care
But how would you know this?
The child said I've noticed
If one could be home
They'd be already there

Then the bartender came out from behind the bar
And in all of his life he was never that far
And he did something else that he thought no one saw
When he took all the cash from the register draw

Then he followed the child to the girl across the street
And we watched from the bar as they started to speak
Then he called for a cab and he said J.F.K.
Put the girl in the cab and the cab drove away
And we saw in his hand
That the cash was all gone
From the light that she had
wished upon

If you want to arrange it
This world you can change it
If we could somehow make this
Christmas thing last

By helping a neighbor
Or even a stranger
And to know who needs help
You need only just ask

Then he looked for the child
But the child wasn't there
Just the wind and the snow
Waltzing dreams through the air

So he walked back inside
Somehow different I think
For the rest of the night
No one paid for a drink

And the cynics will say
That some neighborhood kid
Wandered in on some bums
In the world where they hid

But they weren't there
So they couldn't see
By an old neon star
On that night, Christmas Eve

When the snow it was falling
The neon was calling
And in case you should wonder
In case you should care

Why we're on our own
Never went home
On that night of all nights
We were already there

*Then all at once inside that night*
*He saw it all so clear*
*The answer that he sought so long*
*Had always been so near*

*It's every gift that someone gives*
*Expecting nothing back*
*It's every kindness that we do*
*Each simple little act*

## PROMISES TO KEEP

Christmas time
On a cold December morning
All is calm
And the world is still asleep
Christmas lights
That have been caught without warning
Gently glitter on
Stars to wish upon
All the world is at peace

Christmas time and the year will soon be leaving
Cloaked in time 'til it's just a memory
Christmas stays if we don't forget its meaning
Days go quickly by
Years they multiply
And we go searching for thee

And the dream is still alive
From that first December morning
And it always will survive
As long as we can see
That the dreams that we find in life
Are the dreams we tend to seek
And Christmas has its promises to keep

Christmas time
And the moment's just beginning
From last night
When we'd wished upon the star
If our kindness
This day is just pretending
If we pretend long enough
Never giving up
It just might be who we are

*And so it's good that we remember*
*Just as soon as we've discovered*
*That the things we do in life*
*Will always end up touching others*

*So from a fading neon star*
*Somewhere shining in the night*
*We find a father far away*
*Now reflecting in its light*

## THIS CHRISTMAS DAY

So, tell me Christmas
Are we wise
To believe in things we never see
Are prayers just wishes in disguise
And are these wishes being granted me
For now I see
The answering
To every prayer I've prayed

She's coming home this
Christmas Day

So tell me Christmas
Are we kind
More this day than any other day
Or is it only in our mind
And must it leave when you have gone away
It's different now
It's changed somehow
And now you're here to stay

She's coming home this Christmas Day

All at once the world
It doesn't seem the same
And in a single night
You know it all has changed
And everything is now as it should be

I have the ornament
I have the perfect tree
I have a string of lights
I have a chance to see
Everything that my heart thought could be

For of all the dreams
You were the first I knew
And every other one
Was a charade of you
You stayed close when I was far away

In the darkest night
You always were the star
That always took us in
No matter who we are
And so she's coming home this
Christmas day

*So the girl reached her home*
*And the bar was closing down*
*As the angel started back*
*To bring his Lord what he had found*

**AN ANGEL RETURNED**

An angel returned
That night through the sky
But time it was short
He had to decide

And so as he flew
Back over the land
A gift for his Lord
Was there in his hand

It was the glow of a light
It was the heart of a song
It was the tear of a child
Where they never belonged
It was the wish of a soul
On an old neon light
And the Lord smiled at him
On that cold winter night

Hear as they ring through the night
Kyrie among nations
Kyrie among nations
Kyrie among nations
Hear the bells ring through the night

Kyrie among nations
Kyrie among nations
Kyrie among nations
Hear as they ring through the night

Listen to the bells as they ring
Listen to the message they bring
Listen to the sound
As they sing as one voice in the night

Hoping that we'll all understand
Every dream we have's in our hands
And for every bell
May they ring all through the night

Kyrie among nations
Kyrie among nations
Kyrie among nations
Hear as they ring through the night

Kyrie among nations
Kyrie among nations
Kyrie among nations
Hear as they ring through the night

Listen to the bells as they ring
Listen to the message they bring
Listen to the sound as they sing
As one voice in the night

Hoping that we'll all understand
Every dream we have's in our hands
And for every bell
May they ring all through your life

*And so with his story over*
*And our bottle nearly through*
*I asked, did this really happen?*
*He swore every word was true*

*Then he said I see you're puzzled*
*For your mind tells you to doubt me*
*That my story can't be true*
*But your heart tells you, it might be*

*He then asked, did it entertain me?*
*And I admitted it had charm*
*Then he said perhaps you have*
*learned something*
*Or at worst I've done no harm*

*Then he rose up from his chair*
*And said it's time that he should leave*
*But may God keep you and protect you*
*This and every Christmas Eve*

*Then he left through the front door*
*And I ran out to ask him back*
*But he was already gone*
*And stranger still, he left no tracks*

*So I walked back to my home*
*Recalling all I'd heard and seen*
*And for the first time since my childhood*
*That night I dreamed a*
*Christmas dream*

*MERRY CHRISTMAS!*

We hope you've enjoyed this album's story and music, look for a new Trans-Siberian Orchestra album in early 1998

Music by:
*An Angel Came Down*
(O'Neill/Oliva/Gruber)
*This Christmas Day and An Angel Returned*
(O'Neill/Oliva)
*Christmas Eve/Sarajevo 12/24*
(O'Neill/Kinkel/Oliva)
*A Mad Russian's Christmas*
(Tchaikovsky/O'Neill/Kinkel)
*Good King Joy*
(O'Neill/Kinkel/Manson)
*A Star To Follow, First Snow and Old City Bar*
(O'Neill)
*Prince Of* Peace
(O'Neill/Wesley/ Mendelssohn)
*O Come All Ye Faithful and O Holy Night*
(O'Neill/Kinkel/Reading)
*Promises To Keep*
(O'Neill/Kinkel)

# Trans-Siberian Orchestra

## CHRISTMAS EVE AND OTHER STORIES

Produced by Paul O'Neill
Co-Produced by Robert Kinkel
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Overdubs: Studio 900, New York City
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Story and Lyrics by Paul O'Neill
Music by Paul O'Neill, Robert Kinkel and Jon Oliva
The song "Christmas Eve(Sarajevo 12/24)" was first released on the Savatage rock opera, *Dead Winter Dead*

Robert Kinkel - Piano and Keyboards
John Middleton - Bass
Jon Oliva - Piano, Keyboards and Bass Guitars
Paul O'Neill - Rhythm Guitars
Al Pitrelli - Lead, Rhythm and Bass Guitars
Jeff Plate - Drums
Chris Caffery - Additional Guitars on "Christmas Eve (Sarajevo 12/24)"

Vocal Solos:
John Margolis
Marlene Danielle
Michael Fawcette
Thomas Faresse
Ken Williams
Babi Floyd

Vocal Back-Ups:
Zak Stevens
Nancy Jackson
Peggy Harley
Latasha Spencer
Danielle Lander
Jeffrey Stackhouse
Timothy Carosi
Peter Valentine

Child Choir Conductor:
Anthony Piccolo

Child Choir:
Joseph Murray
Adrian Ross
Nigel Tangredi
Warren Wilson
Beth Butler
Cabiria Jacobson
Rachel Rosenfield
Caroline Ross

Cello Solo: Mary Wooten
French Horn Solo: John Clark

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